



COMMUNITY CHURCH LEISURE WORLD

LIGHTING
A pathway into community

GROWING
Disciples in God's Love

SENDING
The Hope and Joy of Jesus

Our Vision: To Be Love to Leisure World

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

Sunday Service: 9:30 AM
562-431-2503

September 20, 2026

Season of Creation: 3rd Sunday

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR NAME TAG IN
THE NARTHEX BEFORE SERVICE TODAY.
IF YOU'RE VISITING, WE'LL MAKE ONE FOR YOU!**



Grounded in Generosity

Rev. Johan Dodge

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Morning and Welcome to Worship! Worship is often the first place that new people come into contact with this growing community of faith. And so, if you are joining us for the first time, I say to you what is said every Sunday: You are welcome here. Here is a place where all are welcome. For such is the love of God for God's Very Good Creation.

[please stand as you are able]

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures
here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye Heav'n - ly
host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Phyllis Spencer

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread, and boundless joy. Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy alongside others who are also your beloved creation. We celebrate your way of love not only in our lives, but also in the lives of all of your very good creation. Align us with your way of love and help us to receive and share your gift of justice and mercy. Amen.



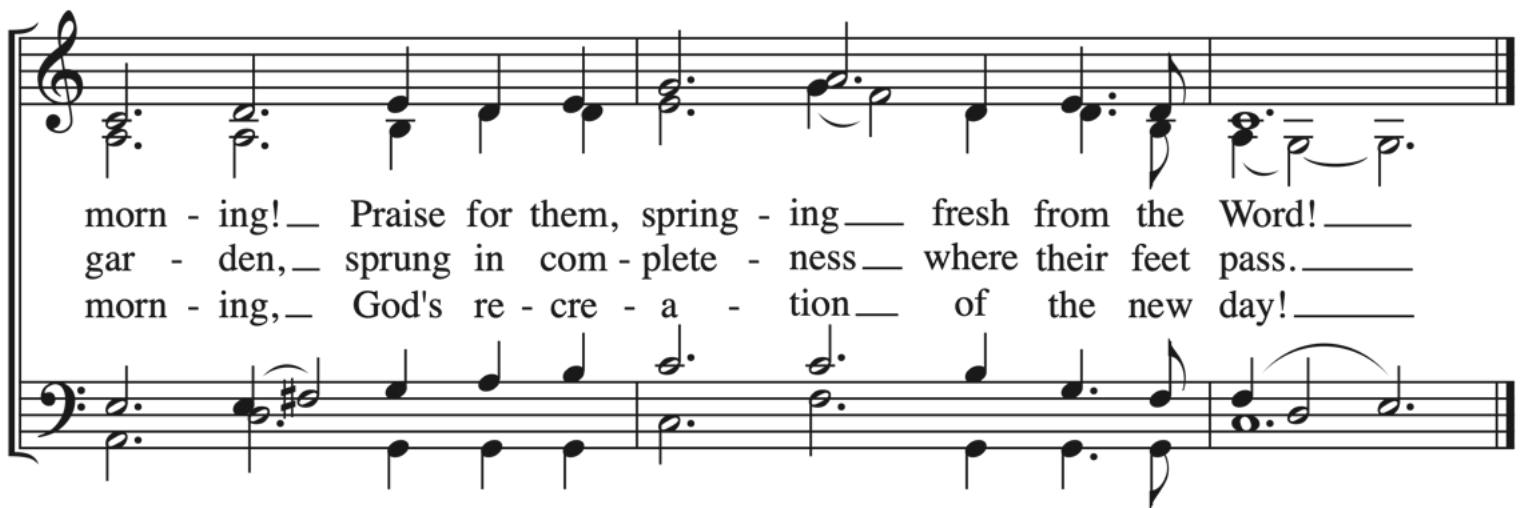
HYMN: "Morning Has Broken"



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from Heav - en, — like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing — born of the



spo - ken — like the first bird. — Praise for the sing - ing! — Praise for the
dew - fall — on the first grass. — Praise for the sweet-ness — of the wet
one light E - den saw play! — Praise with e - la - tion, — praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! — Praise for them, spring - ing — fresh from the Word! —
gar - den, — sprung in com - plete - ness — where their feet pass. —
morn - ing, — God's re - cre - a - tion — of the new day! —

[please be seated]



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of unending mercy and steadfast love, we are grateful that you call us to be your hands and feet in the world today. We see much that is wrong and set against your purposes. Overcome our fear with your love and empower us to overcome the many injustices with your way of justice. Overtake our lust for revenge with your great mercy.

We pray for nations locked in patterns of hate to be free from old ways and to embrace a new way of relating.

We pray for people who wield economic power to take notice of those whom you notice and to have compassion for those who are vulnerable.

We pray for day laborers, the unemployed, the under employed, and the unhoused.

Inspire us who have enough to share what we have, not in measured or resentful amounts, but gladly, abundantly, so basic needs do not go unattended.

Gather up the first and the last, the least and the greatest, in the common work of your kindom, until there is no more first or last at all, for all are one in your name.

Help us all to see not only your grace at work in the world, but also your humor at work in us, the holy laughter that heals us and helps us see ourselves rightly.

We thank you for the privilege of following the way of Jesus, living grounded in your love, and serving to share your love in the vineyard and the world.

In all things, at all times, we give thanks to you, who never lets us go.

Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Hymn of Promise"

The musical score is written for a hymn titled "Hymn of Promise". It features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree; in co - There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy; There's a In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty; In our". The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

6

coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free! In the
 dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me. From the
 doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty, In our

10

cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 past death, will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - te - ry, Un - re -
 a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

14

vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see. —

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Jeanette Williams

Loving God, your word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come find us today wherever we are, however we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause that which is withering in us to blossom and that which is exacting in us to broaden until we see as you see, and thereby glimpse the kindom you are calling into being around us. **Amen.**

Genesis 1:1-13

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Matthew 20:1-16

The Laborers in the Vineyard

^{20:1} “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

MESSAGE: “Grounded in Generosity” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

In Matthew’s Gospel the landowner asks the grumbling workers who have been laboring all day: “Are you envious because i am generous?” How does God’s generosity invite us to reconsider the world we have constructed around us?

REFLECTION: “Redeeming Love” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Jeanette Williams

Whether we have much or only a little, we can share what we have been blessed with so that all may be fed. As we have received, so now we give, in the vineyard of the Lord.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “What A Wonderful World” — Kara Brouelette, *mezzo-soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Jeanette Williams

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be cast in your image and called your very good creation. Bless the fruit of our labors as we return this gifts of yours to you. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____

With God, our Cre - a - tor, _____ we are fam - i - ly. _____

Let us walk with each oth - er _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now; _____

41 With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow: _____ To

49 take each mo-moment and live each mo-moment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; _____

57 Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you, the astounding love of God hold you, and the teachings of Jesus inspire you everywhere and always. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love: The

fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove. A - men.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR NAME TAG IN
EDGAR FELLOWSHIP HALL BEFORE LEAVING TODAY.
BLESSINGS BE.**

Music Team: Kara Brouelette, *Mezzo-Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
John Fluker, *Pianist*
Dave Albulario, *Tenor/Music Dir.*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jeanette Williams – Jeanette's sister-in-law, Caroline Landenberger and her husband, Ken, are struggling with serious ailments. Caroline is being treated for cancer and Ken has suffered a stroke. Step-daughter, Christine McKelvey, has a metastasized tumor near her spine. PET scan is scheduled next week to further diagnose for treatment. Prayers for healing and good care for Jeanette's family.

Families in Grief – Please continue to pray for families grieving loss this year:

♥ **Don Coles** ♥ **Noemi Albulario** ♥ **Linda Hildreth** ♥ **Jim Dimos** ♥ **Matti Kline**
♥ **Richard Keller**, *Patty Jo Schmitz's son* ♥ **Ace**, *Doris Smith's son-in-law*

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP: Today's 🌸 flowers and 🍪 Fellowship refreshments are provided by Lois and Jim Dimos. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$25. See Phyllis Spencer to coordinate arrangements.

LW KOREAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PICNIC: On Sunday, September 27th, we are invited to join our siblings at LW Korean Community Church for their annual outdoor service and picnic just outside Clubhouse 1. After our 9:30 AM service, let's all enjoy a wonderful picnic lunch with LWKCC!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: On Sunday, October 4, 2026, our Worship will now take place *inside* the church, as usual. Observing the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for animals, service will include "**Blessing of the Animals.**" ***Leisure World residents are invited to bring their well-behaved pets for a blessing.*** Dogs must be leashed according to LW rules. Use good judgment regarding the use of kennels & cages. Please be responsible for your pet's behavior. You're welcome to bring a photo of your pet instead, if you prefer.

IMPORTANT LWCC MEMBERSHIP SESSION COMING UP:

LWCC MEMBERSHIP COFFEE WITH PASTOR: This **Thursday, September 24th** at **10:00 AM**, those becoming regular members of Community Church this season are asked to meet with Pastor Johan during our weekly "Coffee with Pastor" time. All are welcome for a relaxed time of conversation over coffee or tea.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

August 16th: 39 | August 23rd: 28 | August 30th: 27 | September 6th: 25



September 20, 2026



**GROW
PRAY
STUDY**

Notes from the Service

[illegible]

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use this prayer in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, your steadfast love abides all around me and is the ground of my becoming. I give you thanks for family, teachers, and friends over the decades who showed your love to me and shared your stories. I pray I may have the courage to tell the stories of your love to a new generation; teaching not just with words but with my actions. I will not be idle today. I will find a way to do the work that you set before me with a glad and generous heart.

*Consider The Upper Room Daily Devotional
as a resource for Midday Prayer.*

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, I come to you with open hands to receive the gift of your presence and love with a thankful spirit. If there is in me any trace of anger or resentment from some slight, big or small, real or imagined, blow it away with the breath of your Spirit. Grounded in your love, I pray. Amen.